

Presenting Evidence

The rules of evidence are quite complex and there are exceptions—but the following is a general guide to assist you to present in a proper manner the evidence that you want the Court to consider.

Even if you are representing yourself in your divorce or child support hearing, you are required to follow the law of evidence as required under Wisconsin law. This means that you can only present to the Court information that you want the Court to hear by following evidentiary rules. Evidentiary rules require that you must always present your information through personal witnesses. You may call yourself or any other person as a witness. You must have your witnesses personally appear at your divorce trial. Letters from teachers, employers, or others are not acceptable. If you have school reports, medical reports or any other kind of report, you must in most cases bring the author of those reports into court to testify as to the contents of the report. The Court cannot accept or consider a report unless the author of that report is in court in person.

Neither you nor any of your witnesses can testify about what some other person has said. You must bring all persons who have information you want the Court to hear and consider into court to testify in person. This may require that you will have to arrange to have several people attend your divorce trial so that they can each tell the Court in their own words what it is that you believe the Court needs to hear and consider.